



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY OPPOSES RETENTION OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR CITY COUNCIL REGARDING SALARY ORDINANCE

Agenda Item to be Heard this Evening by City Council

San Diego, CA: City Attorney Michael Aguirre will oppose action today by the San Diego City Council consider to retain “outside legal counsel to advise the Mayor and City Council on Gov’t Code Section 1090, the Salary Ordinance, and the Appropriation Ordinance.” Without prior communication with the City Attorney, this agenda item was placed yesterday afternoon by the Mayor on a supplemental agenda for a special meeting of the City Council today

In a memorandum hand delivered today to the Mayor and City Council, City Attorney Aguirre stated “he has discharged his duties under Charter Section 40 in providing advice with respect to the Salary Ordinance. Merely because the members of the City Council may disagree with that advice does not provide a proper basis to retain legal counsel at taxpayer expense.” Citing the City Charter and past memoranda from former City Attorney John Witt, Aguirre clearly stated his position that the retention of outside counsel over the objection of the City Attorney is a clear violation of the San Diego Charter.

Because of budget presentations, the agenda item is not expected to be heard before 5 p.m. today.

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